

Proposal Abstract

Applicant: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Project Title: Vanisko Ranch Conservation Easement – Planning Grant

Project Description and Benefits to Restoration: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks seek planning grant funding from the Upper Clark Fork Basin Restoration Fund to pay for an appraisal of fair market value and a baseline documentation report for 7021 acres of the Vanisko Ranch. Since this is a planning grant the primary benefits of this effort to the basin will result from subsequent actions, which are contingent on approval of the grant. Ultimately the department in cooperation with the landowners, and, we hope, the Natural Resource Damage Program, would like to place a conservation easement on the Vanisko Ranch. The long-term conservation of this large ranch within the watershed will serve to replace and rehabilitate resources and services lost as a result of the operations of ARCO and its predecessors. Easement terms would include a prohibition on subdivision; specific plans for range and forest management, and perpetual public hunting access to the property. The ranch includes portions of three drainages (Peterson, Caribou, and Orofino) in the headwaters of the Clark Fork, multiple springs, native bunchgrass communities, aspen stands, and dry forest communities dominated by Douglas fir and lodge pole pine. Native habitat types on the ranch are likely representative of their historic composition with grasslands transitioning into dry forest communities along an elevational gradient. The Vanisko Ranch borders public lands on three sides and possesses exceptional wildlife habitat. The diversity of habitats on the ranch is reflected in the diversity of species that are present. Few ranches in western Montana provide habitat for antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose; the Vanisko Ranch supports these five ungulate species, a genetically pure strain of west slope cutthroat, and numerous other species. Conservation of the Vanisko Ranch will provide lasting benefits to the Upper Clark Fork watershed. We seek a \$20,140 grant from the Restoration Fund to explore the opportunity to place a conservation easement on the Vanisko Ranch. An appraisal and a baseline report are necessary prior to final negotiation of an easement. These tasks will be accomplished as soon as funds are available in the fall of 2007. Funding of this planning grant will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks deliver a cornerstone conservation project at the head of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin.

PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY FORM									
EXPENSE CATEGORY		UCFRB RESTORATION FUND	APPLICANT CONTRIBUTION			OUTSIDE SOURCES			TOTAL
			Cash	In-Kind	Subtotal	Cash	In-Kind	Subtotal	
1	SALARIES AND WAGES								
2	FRINGE BENEFITS								
3	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$20,140.00		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00				\$25,140.00
4	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS								
5	COMMUNICATIONS			\$50.00	\$50.00				\$50.00
6	TRAVEL			\$300.00	\$300.00				\$300.00
7	RENT AND UTILITIES								
8	EQUIPMENT								
9	MISCELLANEOUS								
TOTAL		\$20,140.00		\$5,350.00	\$5,350.00				\$25,490.00

In electronic form this spreadsheet will automatically calculate the expense totals from the following Budget Detail Form.